



# Podcast tells story of teacher banned from the classroom

By David Melsome

A new podcast series tells the story of events at an East Finchley secondary school in the 1980s when a 14-year-old boy says he was groomed into a sexual relationship with his 27-year-old female teacher.

The Tortoise Media series is called Lucky Boy because that's what many people say when they hear about the situation, when in fact the fall-out went on to seriously derail the young pupil's life.

The teacher in question, Sally-Anne Bowen, was banned indefinitely from the profession in December 2023 following a hearing in front of the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA).

It found that she had engaged in sexual activity with a pupil, met him outside of school and allowed him to visit her home while working at Christ's College Finchley in East End Road, between September 1986 and July 1988. Bowen, who went on to teach elsewhere for three decades, denied the allegations in full, but the ban was imposed by TRA chief executive Marc Cavey, following a recommendation from a three-person panel. The former teacher is

appealing against the ruling.

## Difficult to see

Journalist Chloe Hadjimatheou, who leads the podcast series, said: "At its heart this story is about why many in society find it so difficult to see it as sexual abuse when the perpetrator is an attractive woman."

"Since the podcast went out we have been contacted by more former pupils who have information to help our investigation."

The podcast team approached Bowen and the school for comment as part of their investigations. They report that neither responded.

Lucky Boy is a four-part series from Tortoise Investigates available through all regular podcast platforms and here: <https://lnk.to/Lucky-Boy>. Chloe can be contacted by email at: [podcasts@tortoisemedia.com](mailto:podcasts@tortoisemedia.com)



Boot-iful: Kim Athanasίου from Tony's Continental will be bringing a car load of plants for sale

## Plant sale makes return to Tony's

This year's plant sale at Tony's Continental will be held outside the shop on the High Road, N2, on Sunday 4 May, exact times to be announced. All plants are homegrown and will include grasses, ferns, verbenas, geraniums, figs and many more. Funds raised will go towards the Haematology Cancer Care unit at University College London Hospital.

## Vibrant history of crossover culture in London's East End

By David Melsome

An East Finchley resident has launched a podcast uncovering the vibrant yet little-known Jewish popular culture of London's East End. Seven episodes of *The Cockney Yiddish Podcast* are available to listen to now.

Historian and performer Dr Vivi Lachs came up with the idea in conjunction with Professor

Nadia Valman, her colleague at Queen Mary University of London. They wanted to tell the story of the crossover culture that developed when tens of thousands of Jewish migrants arrived in London escaping poverty and pogroms.

Each episode explores a different aspect of East End Yiddish life, from music halls and street markets to political protests and family anecdotes. Special guests include Michael Rosen, Miriam Margolyes, David Schneider, and musicians from Klezmer Klub and Katsha'nes.

"Yiddish songs and writing give us unique insights into Jewish immigrant life in the East End," said Dr Lachs. "The Yiddish language in London changed to incorporate the London experience so you get



Podcast hosts: Vivi Lachs, left, and Nadia Valman

local Cockney words like 'cuppa tea' that became a part of East End Yiddish both in writing and spoken on the streets."

The podcast is accompanied by a dedicated website, [cockneyyiddish.org](http://cockneyyiddish.org), where listeners can access Yiddish texts, translations, and additional resources to start their own language-learning.

**Join our hospice heroes on an unforgettable London walk.**

**BIG FUN WALK 2025**

**Sunday 18 May**

- 10 mile walk East Finchley to Westminster
- London's most beautiful parks and iconic views
- A new 5-mile optional version of the walk – "Little Fun Walk"
- Free lunch, refreshments and a goody bag



**North London Hospice**



**Sign up today**

Register at [northlondonhospice.org/events/blg-fun-walk-2025/](http://northlondonhospice.org/events/blg-fun-walk-2025/)

Pricing for adults £25, under 16 £20 and under 5s free.

Scan me



Charity No. 285300 | Company Reg No: 01654807 Reg. Address - 47 Woodside Avenue, London, N12 6TT.



## 'Assault' in Long Lane

A man was taken to hospital with a serious head injury after an incident in Long Lane, N2, on Tuesday 4 March. Emergency services were called to the scene, including the Air Ambulance which landed in the green space off Oak Lane.

A spokesperson for London Ambulance Service said: "We were called at 10.46am to reports of an assault on Long

Lane.

We treated a man at the scene for a head injury and took him to a major trauma centre by road." The victim's condition is currently unknown.

The incident caused the closure of the nearby Long Lane Supermarket and a section of Long Lane for three days while police and forensics teams investigated the scene.